

might have been given by Burnet, but
Carstairs saw clearly
what Burnet failed to perceive—that, good or
bad, the
ecclesiastical settlement must be the work of
Scotland itself.

*' The more I consider the temper of this
nation and their
notions of government, . . . the more I dread
the thoughts
of any of the English being much concerned in
our affairs/

Since Macaulay wrote, Principal Story's life
of Carstairs
has thrown new light on his career, and it has
been further
elucidated by the letters published more
recently.

More prominently employed, and working
generally in
close co-operation with Carstairs, were the two
Dalrymples,

Sir James, first Viscount Stair, President of the
Court of
Session, and his son Sir John, afterwards first
Earl of Stair.

Macaulay draws the characters of both at full
length.² Ad-

mitting the great ability of the father, and his
moderation

during the ten years in which he held office in
Charles IPs

reign, he charges him with hypocrisy and
insincerity. No

man was more unscrupulously attacked by
contemporary

libellers, and Macaulay, complains Stair's
biographer, has

drawn chiefly from these satirists all the
charges his enemies

made against Stair, and without examining
their truth has

insinuated others for which even satire gave
no founda-

tion/ ³ As the satires referred to have been
reprinted, their

value can easily be estimated. Macaulay

employs them to
supply picturesque and romantic touches to
his account of
the house of Stair, and this is legitimate
enough.⁴ But he

¹R. H. Story, William Carstares : A Character and Career of
the Revolu-
tionary Epoch (1874;,, pp. iS3, 195, 206, 225.
-IV, 1548-51 (xiii;.

³Aeneas j. G. Mackay, Memoir of Sir James Dalrymple,
First Viscount
Stair : A Study in the History of Scotland and Scotch Law
during the
Seventeenth Century (1873), p. 286.

⁴ See A Book of Scotch Pasquils, 1568-1715, ed. J.
Maidment (1868),
pp. 174, 221, 370.